

ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Standard A Vehicle for Driving Improved Environmental Performance

Industrial companies, service organisations, utility and public bodies world-wide have embraced ISO 14001 as the preferred model for environmental management and improved performance. ISO 14001 is an internationally recognised system for environmental management. The standard was published by ISO in 1996, and was designed to be compatible with other management standards particularly the widely used ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard.

ISO 14001 requires organisations to:

- ♦ Define their environmental policy
- ♦ Review their activities, products, processes and services, in order to identify the environmental issues and associated impacts over which it has control

The standard outlines in a structured and systematic manner, how such issues and associated impacts are controlled, reduced or eliminated in order to drive improved environmental performance.

An effective environmental management system based on ISO 14001 provides an organisation's top management with a roadmap which allows them to manage environmental issues effectively by:

- Providing opportunities to focus on prevention of pollution and continual improvement
- Allowing organisations to more effectively meet legislative and regulatory requirements and therefore viewed more favourably by regulators.
- Providing an opportunity to systematically plan, control and monitor plant activities and processes that may impact on the environment.
- Identifying areas for cost savings in energy, raw materials usage, waste disposal etc, as part of continual improvement.

CQAI/NSAI Registration

Third party registration of environmental management systems provides confidence that environmental issues are being managed in accordance with internationally recognised standards and procedures.

CQAI/NSAI is accredited to assess and certify organisations to ISO 14001. Accreditation is provided by the U.S. Registrar Accreditation Board (ANSI-RAB).

CQAI/NSAI offers training workshops that outline the requirements of the standard, the interpretation of those requirements and their application in an EMS.

CQAI/NSAI's auditors are highly experienced EMS practitioners with a broad industrial knowledge, combined with appropriate environmental and auditing qualifications.

The Benefits of Registration

- **Management**
 - facilitates effective management
 - improves overall organisational effectiveness
 - demonstrates control and introduces change in a controlled manner
- **Staff**
 - functions clearly defined
 - establishes environmental awareness and clear methodology
- **Society**
 - reduced environmental impacts
 - better stakeholder relationships
 - enhanced image of company to third parties
 - reduced environmental burden through elimination, reduction and reuse etc.
- **Organisation**
 - demonstration of environmental focus
 - improved internal /external relations
 - reduced risk of liability
 - improved cost control
 - keeping ahead of legislation and regulatory developments

Registration can:

Promote continual improvement
Identify opportunities for improvement
Challenge the system in light of changing expectations
Satisfy the expectations of most organisations
Ensure greater level of control
Enhance image
Demonstrate transparency and commitment
Provide independent verification to third parties